

# EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

## LEDFORD HIGH SCHOOL VARSITY CHEERLEADING TEAM

HON. HOWARD COBLE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 8, 1996*

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, as the college and high school basketball seasons move into high gear, we pause for a moment to give praise to one group closely associated with the sport of round ball which is often overlooked, namely the cheerleaders. These dedicated young people contribute much to the joy and enthusiasm which exists at our Nation's high school and college basketball games, as well as many other sporting events.

Of course, everyone knows that North Carolina is a basketball hotbed. We are proud of the level of basketball skills exhibited at the high school and college levels and that includes our cheerleaders. We think they are the best. Now, we have proof that the Sixth District of North Carolina is home to the best cheerleaders in our State.

The members of the Ledford High School varsity cheerleading team were declared State champs recently in the North Carolina State 2A cheerleading championships. The Davidson County high school squad, coached by Debbie Pope, won the State title which was sponsored by the North Carolina Cheerleading Coaches Association and recognized by the North Carolina High School Athletic Association.

The Panthers' cheerleading squad is comprised of team captains Heather Pitts and Courtney Troutman, as well as Shannon Montgomery, Chrissy Ayers, Lauren Garner, Leslie Varner, Kellie Jackson, Ashley Craven, April Kindred, Brittany Yountz, Melissa Quinn, and Alicia Belle.

The most recent State championship is not the only trophy captured by the Ledford cheerleaders. The squad won the varsity dance/pom championship at UCA summer camp and the ECA regional championship in the varsity division. Ledford was also invited to the ECA Nationals. Three team members were selected as all-stars at UCA summer camp, and Chrissy Ayers was chosen to be a member of the West squad for the N.C. East/West All-State Cheerleading Team.

For winning this title, we offer our congratulations to Ledford principal Max Cole, athletic director Gary Hinkle, Coach Debbie Pope, the faculty, staff, students and families of Ledford High School. We are certain that the whole community is sharing in the excitement.

So, if you attend a sporting event at Ledford High School anytime soon, take special notice of the cheerleaders because they are State champions. From the citizens of the Sixth District of North Carolina, three cheers to the Ledford High School Varsity Cheerleading Team.

## HOME EDUCATION

HON. VAN HILLEARY

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 8, 1996*

Mr. HILLEARY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to insert Gov. Don Sundquist's proclamation declaring this week, March 4–10, 1996, "Tennessee Home Education Week," into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. I fully support this worthy proclamation, and I will continue to work to allow America's parents to have more control over their children's education.

### STATE OF TENNESSEE—PROCLAMATION

BY THE GOVERNOR

Whereas, Tennessee is committed to excellence in education and to public policy that strengthens the family; and

Whereas, Tennessee recognizes parental choice in pursuit of that excellence and the importance of parental involvement in education; and

Whereas, Tennessee appropriately and statutorily authorizes home education as an educational alternative, as well as recognizes the rights of parents to teach and train their children because of their religious beliefs; and

Whereas, home schools can afford families the opportunity to develop positive character qualities and instill desired values in their children; and

Whereas, parents rightfully have the final authority and responsibility for the care, upbringing and choice of education for their children; and

Whereas, home education was a predominant form of education in the early years of America, and many Americans such as George Washington, Patrick Henry, John Marshall, Robert E. Lee, Booker T. Washington, Benjamin Franklin, John Quincy Adams, Thomas Edison, Douglas MacArthur, Pearl S. Buck and Franklin Roosevelt were primarily educated at home; as well as many other diverse and creative Americans; and

Whereas, studies continue to confirm that children who are home educated score well on national achievement tests, exhibit self-confidence, and are fully prepared to meet the challenges of today's society; and

Whereas, it is appropriate that Tennessee home educators and home-educated children be recognized for their contribution to the diversity and quality of education in this great state,

Now Therefore, I, Don Sundquist, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim the week of March 4–10, 1996, as Tennessee Home Education Week in Tennessee and I call this observance to the attention of all our citizens.

In Witness Whereof, I hereunto set my hand and caused the official seal of the State of Tennessee to be affixed at Nashville on this 30th day of June, 1995.

DON SUNDQUIST,  
Governor.

RILEY C. DARNELL,  
Secretary of State.

## THE PRESCRIPTION DRUG CONSUMER INFORMATION ACT WILL HELP SENIORS REDUCE THEIR HEALTH CARE COSTS

HON. RICHARD J. DURBIN

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, March 8, 1996*

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. Speaker, as the price of health care continues to rise, spending on prescription drugs becomes an ever-increasing burden for millions of Americans. A recent study by the PRIME Institute at the University of Minnesota College of Pharmacy shows that producer list prices for the 500 most prescribed drugs climbed an average of 4.6 percent in 1995. This 4.6 percent increase exceeds the 2.6 percent increase in Social Security benefits over the past year. Furthermore, the increase in prescription drug prices is more than twice the increase in the 1995 producer price index. As the prices of prescription drugs continue to outpace the general cost of living for seniors, these Americans on fixed incomes often face the choice between food and medicine.

Consumers and their doctors need comparative information about prescription drug prices to help them reduce spending on prescription drugs without compromising quality. But comparative information is not readily available. Prescription drugs do not sit on grocery shelves with separate price tags under each item. Even doctors often do not know the prices of medications and whether a less expensive but equally effective alternative is available.

The Prescription Drug Consumer Information Act of 1996 will make this essential information more available by directing the Secretary of Health and Human Services [HHS] to publish annually an easy-to-understand consumer guide to prescription drug prices that presents price and cost-effectiveness information by therapeutic category for easy comparison to other drugs and to other therapies.

The guide will provide consumers with the information they need to intelligently discuss the cost effectiveness of various prescription drug options with their doctors and pharmacists. The guide will also provide doctors with information that will help them determine the most cost-effective therapies for their patients. This information is not available anywhere else at this time. The increased availability of price information could also unleash free market forces to help reduce the cost of medications that are excessively priced.

This legislation directs the Secretary of HHS to publish a consumer guide to prescription drug prices annually, beginning no later than 2 years after the legislation is enacted. The guide will be made available electronically—that is, through computer networks—and in print. The Secretary may publish periodic bulletins that reflect changes in the prices in the consumer guide between the dates of annual

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